

To Smoosh or Not to Smoosh? That is the Question

Submitting Documents
Online and Over the Counter
Jim Price / COT / Feb 10, 2012

- Should courts be permitted to electronically combine all documents received via AZTurboCourt or over-the-counter from filers into a single composite file?

Decision Needed

- Accustomed to receiving hard copy case files that are stacked together.
- Not comfortable reviewing, marking up, or researching the contents of the various documents received electronically.

Background: Judges & JAs

- Each submitted document is separately identified and transmitted to target courts, *i.e., individual documents are not combined into a single, large document.*
- Each submitted document may be further described by target courts as restricted, *i.e., individual documents not to be made available online or at all.*
- Registered AZTurboCourt filers may retrieve individual court case documents that are uniquely coded (CMS field value), typed (e.g. Motion), titled (Motion to Do Something), and associated with individual cases (Smith versus Jones).

Background: AZTurboCourt and Disconnected Scanning

- Combining individual court case documents provides Judges and JAs an approach to keep related documents together.

Smooshing Pros

- Approach does not associate amendments with previously submitted court case documents.
- No consistent way to perform text-searches or otherwise markup or process information.
- Restricted documents contained within smooshed documents renders the entire smooshed document set unavailable online.
- File sizes will exceed network capacities.
- Does not support filers' need to retrieve specific documents, impacting e-filers and Public Access initiative.
- Does not support automated workflow processes that are document-driven.

Smooshing Cons

- Separately identify and record all documents submitted, in court CMS-EDMS, whether submitted online or OTC.
- Assemble a team of dedicated stakeholder participants who will shape the next-generation, court-wide document usability standard.

Recommendations

- Support recommendation to require individual files.
- Do not support recommendation, allowing either individual files or single, consolidated file.
- Do something else.
- Delay decision.

Decision